Volume I, No. 10 ✠ ✠ ✠ ✠ ✠ ✠ December 1953

BULLETIN OF THE HISTORY OF DENTISTRY

official monthly publication of
American Academy of the History of Dentistry

HOMER BROWN'S HISTORICAL DOCUMENTS

@@ Homer C. Brown, senior past-president of the American Dental Association, who died November 7, at the age of 84, was a member of the A.A.H.D. and author of several articles pertaining to the history of the Association. He had a considerable collection of original documents and other historical material mostly bearing upon his own activities as president and as chairman of the legislative committee of the Association. This collection should be available and valuable in the preparation of the history of the Association to be published for the centenary celebration of the organization. Doctors Donald Washburn and George B. Denton, who examined the collection in Columbus for the Association in 1951, reported that the material consisted of approximately ten filing cabinet drawers of correspondence, besides typescripts of articles and addresses, programs of dental society meetings, pamphlets and books on dental subjects, photographs, newspaper clippings, telegrams, and miscellaneous objects relative to dentistry. This is the kind of collection of historical material that so often is destroyed. Steps are being taken to see that this collection will be preserved. Brig. Gen. Neal A. Harper, retired Assistant Chief of the Dental Division in the Surgeon General's Office, and Assistant Professor at Ohio State University College of Dentistry, was designated by Dr. Brown as custodian of his files and records. General Harper will organize for use the documentary material bearing on the history of the American Dental Association.

INFORMATION WANTED

P/ In the November issue of the Dayton Dental Society Bulletin, Dr. O. B. Kneisly, who writes the column on "Dayton Dental History," requests information with regard to a number of Ohio dentists. The editorial office of the Bulletin is 1933 North Main Street, Dayton 5, Ohio.

FOR THE AUTHOR OF A DENTAL HISTORY

P/ At the meeting of the A.A.H.D. in Cleveland, Wayne K. Stoler, of Valparaiso, Indiana, presented a mimeographed sheet of "Considerations for Publication of Dental History." Some copies of this list of matters which the author or publisher of a dental history should consider in planning publication are available upon request to the author.

P/ August 1 of this year was the one hundredth anniversary of the birth of Willoughby D. Miller, founder of the chemico-bacterial theory of dental caries.

ANOTHER FIRST NATIVE BORN AMERICAN DENTIST

P/ A third candidate for the distinction of being the first native-born American dentist has been named. In a letter to the editor, Dr. J. Ben Robinson calls attention to the claims of Benjamin Fendall, born in all probability in Maryland, 1753. The earliest advertisement of this dentist appeared in 1776, and antedated the publicity of both Josiah Flagg and Isaac Greenwood by several years. The prior date given by Dr. Robinson is confirmed by the reproduction of the advertisement of Fendall in 1776, in Dr. B. W. Weinberger's An Introduction to the History of Dentistry in America, 1948, vol. 2, p. 39. According to the list of dentists given by Dr. Robinson (Proceedings Dental Centenary Celebration, 1940, p. 1002-1003) there might be other claimants to being earliest native-born American dentist, but perhaps there is doubt as to the extent which these persons practiced dentistry.

@@ DR. W. L. J. GRIFFIN, former lecturer on dental history at the University of Pennsylvania, according to the New York Times died October 23. He delivered a paper on the history of the dental schools in Philadelphia before the Fourth International Dental Congress in 1904, and contributed the history of the University of Pennsylvania dental school to Koch's History of Dental Surgery, 1909. Dr. Griffin was for many years a coworker with the well-known dental historian, William H. Trueman, who died in 1927.

@@ HARRY C. KEANE, a member of the A.A.H.D. and advertising manager of the S. S. White Co., died November 23. He wrote the book A Century of Service to Dentistry, 1944, tracing the history of the S. S. White Co. in its relations to the dental profession. Mr. Keane was a member of the Pennsylvania Historical Society and the City Historical Society of Philadelphia.

NEW JERSEY AND LICENSURE

P/ "A Brief Sketch of New Jersey's Contribution to Licensure in Dentistry" by Milton B. Asbell appeared in the November issue of the Journal of the New Jersey State Dental Society.

SCANT HISTORICAL INTEREST IN TEXAS

P/ The history committee of the Texas Dental Association, of which Frank M. Shultz is chairman, canvassed the membership to ascertain the extent of interest in the purchase of a History of Dentistry in Texas now being prepared. Of a total membership of 2014, only 132 or 6 per cent were willing to purchase a copy at the price of ten dollars.

THE BULLETIN'S FIRST YEAR

P/ The present issue, Number 10, concludes Volume I of the Bulletin. Volume II will begin with the January issue, and it is hoped will have twelve monthly numbers.